REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Japanese Publication No. JP 8-18955 to Shimizu et al. (hereinafter "Shimizu"). In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify its distinguishing features.

In the response to the previous Final Office Action, independent claim 1 was amended to recite that the parameters were supplied to the plurality of coding sections in order to achieve coordinated coding between the coding sections. Applicant argued that in the present invention, the in-division coding control section 105, 108 and 111 perform coding control based on the image status parameters, coding status parameters, and coding resulting parameters supplied thereto to produce appropriate coding control parameters and supply the coding control parameters to the coding sections 103, 106 and 109 and the buffers 104, 107 and 110, respectively.

However, the Examiner, in the present Office Action, alleges that Shimizu, in Fig. 9, teaches control means 108-111 supplying quantization parameters to the plurality of coding section 119-122.

However, in the present invention, the coordinated coding control section 112 has a function of determining basic coding control parameters based on parameters such as a bit rate and an image size, which are supplied from a user, an apparatus controller or the like, and supplying the determined basic coding control parameters to the image dividing section 101, the in-division coding control sections 105, 108 and 111 and the multiplexing section 102. Also, the coordinated coding control section 112 has another function of evaluating coding situations of the individual image divisions with various parameters supplied thereto over the communication

bus 113, calculating coding control parameters such as appropriate information amounts and buffer amount allocations and supplying the calculated coding control parameters over the communication bus 113.

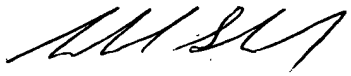
Therefore, independent claim 1 has been amended to positively recite this feature. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the coordinated coding control means determines basic coding control parameters based on parameters such as a bit rate and an image size, and supplies the determined basic coding control parameters to the image dividing means, the plurality of coding sections and the multiplexing means, and the coordinated coding control means evaluates coding situations of the plurality of image divisions with parameters supplied thereto over a communication bus, calculates coding control parameters and supplies the calculated coding control parameters over the communication bus. Support for the amendment is found throughout the specification; specifically, in Fig. 1 and page 10, line 1 – page 11, line 22. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by way of the amendment to claim 1.

Shimizu, on the other hand, discloses, in paragraph 0021, a picture divider 102 that divides a picture inputted from the input terminal 101 into a plurality of picture divisions 103, and inputting these division picture images 103 into division picture coding equipments 104-107 and encoding them. Furthermore, Shimizu teaches multiplexing the coded data 131 of each division picture by the multiplexing section 132, and outputting the coded data 131 to an output terminal 133. However, Shimizu does not teach that the coordinated coding control means 108-111 is able to determine basic coding control parameters, supply these parameters to the image dividing section, and evaluate coding situations of the individual image divisions with various parameters supplied thereto over a communication bus.

Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference, disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. Lindeman Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist and Derrick Company, 730 F.2d 1452, 1458; 221 U.S.P.Q. 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Shimizu fails to teach that the coordinated coding control means is able to determine basic coding control parameters, supply these parameters to the image dividing section, and evaluate coding situations of the individual image divisions with various parameters supplied thereto over a communication bus, as is performed in the present invention and recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, Shimizu fails to anticipate the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the §102(b) rejection of claims 1-5 be withdrawn, and respectfully requests that claims 1 – 5 be allowed.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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